

NATIONAL DISCOURSE

CONCERNING

TRANSUBSTANTIATION

IN A

Letter to a Person of Honour, &c.
a Master of Arts of the University of
CAMBRIDGE.

4.

Printed in the Year, MDCCXXVI.

INTERNATIONAL DISCOUNT

ASSOCIATION

to a Person of Honor, from
a Member of the University of
CAMBRIDGE

Printed in the Year, MDCLXXVI.

RATIONAL DISCOURSE

CONCERNING

TRANSUBSTANTIATION.

S I R,

HAVING lately had the honor of your Company, you were pleased to signify a particular difficulty which you had, to believe the great mystery of Love, and grand stumbling block of more ingenious Protestants, the mystery of Transubstantiation; in which, if I could give you satisfaction, to my best remembrance, you promised me to reconcile your self to the Church of Rome. *Non ignara mali miseris succurrere disco.* My own sad misfortune to have been Educated in the misbelief of this sublime Article of our Christian Faith, till the five and twentieth year of my Age, makes me very tenderly compassionate both to your self and all others whom I see to be involved in the same misery. The all good and all powerful God (who has so firmly made me to believe this strange miracle of Love, that had I a thousand Lives, I would most willingly, through God's assistance, lay them all down to Seal it with my blood) give your Honor, and all Mis-believers the like satisfaction to your and their Eternal comfort. What satisfies me, I shall in the best manner I am able, Candidly propose to your mature and impartial consideration.

Sir, My sentiment concerning the adorable Eucharist, is, that it is neither less nor more than the Sacred Body and Blood of God; neither less nor more than whole Christ. God and Man, Soul, Body, and Divinity, though for the love and service of us Sinners, veiled under the vile accidents and appearances of common Bread and ordinary Wine. Concerning which mystery my first Assertion shall be.

A

Asseritio

Affertion 1. It is possible to the Omnipotent power of God, to change the substance of Bread and Wine into the substance of our blessed Saviours Body and Blood. And this our Adversaries generally grant. Whence by the way, take notice, that all such Arguments, and most of them are such, as pretend to prove Transubstantiation impossible, even in the judgment of our Adversaries, are Sophisms, and do not prove their Proposers in-intent: Else they must confess that two Contradictories may be true, and that they can, and do believe them both. To wit, that Transubstantiation is both possible and impossible, and they can, and do believe as much. 'Tis possible that they grant, and 'tis also impossible, for that their Arguments attempt to prove. Further. I prove Transubstantiation possible, thus. What you and I can do, and every day actually do in four and twenty hours, surely God Almighty can do in a moment. But you and I in four and twenty hours turn Bread and Wine into the substance of our bodies, by eating, drinking, and digesting of them. Therefore our B. Saviour in a moment, without eating and drinking, by a mere *Fiat*, or will, that the substance of bread and wine be turned into the substance of his Body and Blood, can effect it. But then you will say, the substance of the bread and wine must be transferred into Heaven, that it may be changed into the substance of our Lord's body there. But why so? Is it not sufficient that the substance of our Lord's body in Heaven, be made to be under the accidents of bread and wine here? But how can the substance of our Saviours body be in Heaven under such a measure of quantity, and such accidents there, and at the same time be here on Earth under a different quantity and accidents? Why, how is the substance of the same Air condens'd under a lesser quantity to day, which rarified yesterday, was under a greater quantity? For the antient and commonly received definition of Rarefaction, is: a little matter under a great quantity; and of Condensation, is, a great deal of matter under a little quantity. For example: In a Weather-glass, the same air rarified, fills twice as much space as did the same air condens'd, as is evident to your eye. So that the same substance of air, when it is rarified, fills the spaces A. and B. which when it was condens'd fill'd only the space A. and this without any addition of any new substance of air, only the same substance by

virtue

virtue of Rarefaction is under a greater quantity than it was be-
 fore. And will you pawn your soul, the Omnipotent God can-
 not by Consecration make his own body be present to the space
A and *B*, which before Consecration was only present to the
 space *A*. Now who would ever have imagin'd such Doctrin as
 this concerning Rarefaction and Condensation should have been
 taught by an *Aristotle* to explicate Nature, and not rather have
 been invented by some Christian Philosopher, to declare the su-
 pernaturaliey of Transubstantiation; so aply does it agree with
 that hidden and holy mystery? 2. None make difficulty of a
 spirits being in different places at once. The soul is generally ac-
 knowledged to be all in the head, and all in the foot: an Almighty
 God is all in *France*, and all in *England*; nor one part of him
 here, and another there; nor one God in *France*, and another in
England. We indeed, because we never saw the same thing in
 two places, but always different things in different places, are apt
 to imagine it impossible for the same thing at the same time to be
 in two different places. Hence it follows, whatsoever involves
 not a contradiction, being possible to God Almighty, let our
 phansie say what it will, we must follow our reason; and ac-
 knowledge Almighty God can make not only a spiritual sub-
 stance, but even a material one be in two places at once, unless
 we can shew it includes a contradiction. To be here, and not to
 be here, is indeed a contradiction; but to be here and there at
 the same time, is no contradiction; else neither our soul, nor
 God Almighty himself, could be all here, and all in another
 place at the same time. Now will any one, who is forced by his
 Faith and Reason to acknowledge a spiritual substance is actually
 in two places at once, pawn his eternal salvation (as he does who
 purely for this difficulty continues Protestants) that God Almighty
 cannot by all his Omnipotency, make a corporeal substance be
 here and in Heaven at the same time? *Ans.* No. *Some* *say*
 Now that the bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist should
 affect our senses in the same manner as they did before their
 change into our Saviours body and blood, this ought to seem
 no impossible wonder to a Christian, who believes so many mi-
 racles in our Lords Incarnation, Conception, and Virginity of a
 Virgin. Such a Miracle as this our Lord wrought, when he ap-
 peared.

appeared to *S. Mary Magdalen* in the shape of a Gardner. His face no doubt was his own true face, but it wrought upon *S. Mary Magdalens* eyes as if it had been the face of the Gardner.

And here I had thought to have inserted the different ways, which different Schools of Catholick Divines take, to explicate how this high mystery is wrought. But my design being to satisfy Unbelievers as to the substance of the mystery, and not to puzzle the Faith of Believers, by making them glare too wisely upon the manner how this divine secret is wrought, it being more safely admired, together with the mystery of the Incarnation and ever blessed Trinity, then curiously pried into; I resolved to draw a Veil before it, by a profound silence of the several explanations of Divines, and to content my self with letting you know in general, how different Doctors of different Philosophical Principles, according to their several Philosophies, differently explicate the mystery of the H. Eucharist, and defend it differently against Calvinists, as they do the mystery of the B. Trinity against the Antitrinitarians, and of the Incarnation of the Eternal Word against the Arians; some by virtual distinction, others by real formal, and others otherwise. And yet all hold, that after Consecration, the bread is no longer bread, but is changed into the body of our Lord; but how it is done, some say one way, some another, according to their different Tenets in Philosophy, still all agreeing that this change is fully called Transubstantiation, and that with good reason; for the same remaining the same, must needs be the same, and cannot possibly be made what it was not, without some change. The bread then that it may become our Saviours body, must have some change wrought in it, but in its accidents its essence there is none, they remaining the same as before; therefore the change must be in the substance. And can now the change of the substance of bread, into the substance of our B. Lords body, be called by a finer name than a substantial change, or Transubstantiation? And this some of the Learnedst of the Church of England would do well to tell. A ony who urged by the clearness of our Saviours own words, *This is my Body*, and the multitude of Testimonies of the Fathers of the first six hundred years, and the

impossibility of such a Doctrine over-spreeding the whole Christian world, without any appearance of its beginning, and the opposition it must needs have found by reason of its strangeness both to sense and reason, and its engaging the whole Church in a material, at least, Idolatry, unless it had been taught the world at first by our B. Lord and his Apostles: I say some of the Learnedst of the English Clergy being urged by such considerations as these, confess the Holy Eucharist, as they begin to call it, after Consecration to be really and truly our B. Saviours body, and therefore fall down before it, and adore it: and for this cause disown the new Rubrick of the Common-prayer-book, which saies our Lords body is in Heaven, and not upon the Altar. These Doctors will tell you they acknowledge the things; only they dare not be so bold as the Romanists, to determine the manner. And one of the Learnedst of them, Mr. *Thorndike*, asks, why cannot our B. Saviour appear to us in what shape he pleases; in the shape of a Gardiner, or if it so please him, in the shape of bread and wine? These Doctors, I say, would do well to reflect the Church of *Rome* has not determin'd the manner of our B. Saviours bodies being in the Sacrament, and therefore her Divines, some explicate it one way, some another; but only the thing it self, the manner how, being left to the dispute of her Doctors.

2. *Affertion*. If our B. Saviour would have left us his sacred body and blood, instead of all the Sacrifices of Sheep and Oxen under the *Mosaical* dispensation, to be offered up by Christian Priests, and to be fed upon by the Christian people, it would have been a favour worthy of his excessive love to Mankind; by reason of the innumerable benefits which would have accrued to us by the continual oblation and presence of so worthy a sacrifice. What an incentive would this have been to Christian piety? How would such a Sacrifice as this have compell'd High and Low, Rich and Poor, Learned and Unlearned, with a strange reverence to have flock'd about our Christian Altars, where not a Lamb or a Beast, but the body of God, and the blood of God, and by concomitancy whole God and Man, Christ Jesus, should have been offered up by choice Persons to the Almighty for the good of the World? How would the presence of such an Oblation have kept them attentive, and increased their fervor in their Prayers? when they should have been able to have said, *This before me, which I see with my eyes, is my dear Redeemer, and God that was Crucified for me, and is to be my Judge.*

How.

How earnestly should we have made all our Petitions to him, and how heartily should we have thanked him for all his Love? To understand this? Imagin our B^e Saviour should appear to you in your Chamber every Morning, in that very body and shape He is now in Heaven; were you assured it was he, and not an illusion, with what humility would you prostrate your self before him? How heartily would you cry him mercy for all your sin, and earnestly recommend all the desires of your soul unto him? And how would this high favour melt your soul into a most tender affection towards him? But these would have been the happy circumstances of the whole Christian world, would our Omnipotent Lord, out of his abundant goodness, have left us his sacred self, under the disguise of the Accidents of bread and wine. The same Petitions, with a like fervour, would every Christian have made every Holy Mass, which you would have made every Morning upon such an Apparition as was supposed.

O My dear Jesus, true God and Man, the very same who art in Heaven in all splendor and glory, art here upon the holy Altar before me, Veiled under the vile appearances of common bread and ordinary wine; and all this for my sake, that to my souls health thou mightest be seen, handled, and tasted by me. Nor couldst thou be hindered from this excess of Love to me unworthy Sinner, although thou didst foresee the Revilings thou wert to endure for it from ungrateful Calvinists. Who for this would call thee a Bread-Jehovah, and reproach thy devout Adorers, as more stupid Idolaters than the very Pagan Worshipers of Sun and Moon. Rather then I should want the delicious comfort of thy continual presence; the happy pledge of eternally seeing thee face to face: all this, and yet greater indignities wouldst thou subject thy self unto, by one to be reviled by his impious tongue; by another to be trampled under his foul feet; by a third, to be cast into some Sink or Jaques. O Impiety, O Ingratitude of sinful men! O unheard of goodness of our dearest Lord; thus to abject himself for our sakes! But what wonder, if when he was in a passible mortal body, he would permit himself by wicked Miscreants to be torn with cruel Whips, to be bespattered with filthy Spittle, and to be made black and blew with ignominious buffets; what wonder now, when he is become immortal and impassible, and can suffer no more defilement from the basest ordures, than do the bright Sun-beams from the foulest mud when they shine upon it, that he should permit himself to be eaten by

Mice or Doggs, or suffer other viler indignities; if Sacrilegious Sinners will permit or cause them?

Moreover, such a presence of our great Lord, what an Incitement would it have been to pious Munificence in adorning our Christian Churches with the richest Gold and most precious Stones, or what ever else that's rare and splendid; which Nature or Art does afford, making them little Heavens for lustre and glory, and thereby exciting in the hearts of all that should enter them a due reverence to the Almighty, whom we worship? If *Solomon* so adorned his Temple, where only a Sheep, or a Calf, or a little Incense was offered to the Creator of all things; what glory could have been thought too rich for our Christian Churches, where an Oblation, worthy of the great God, should every day have been sacrificed unto him; the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world; the God-Man Christ Jesus. In fine, what vertue should not our dear Saviour have given us example of, by such a charitable humiliation of himself? Obedience, to come down from Heaven to Earth at the voice of every Christian Priest, though never so simple for his understanding, or never so wicked for his life and manners. Charity, Humility, Patience, Contempt of the Judgments or sayings of men, &c.

3. *Affirmation.* The bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist, are by the Omnipotent power of God actually, and in deed changed into the body and blood of our B. Saviour Jesus Christ: which I prove thus. This was the universal belief of the Christian world in the ninth Century after our B. Saviour, as is evident by the testimony of all the writings of that Age, and by the universal testimony of the tenth Age, who profess in all Christian Countreys to have received this Faith from their immediate Ancestors. Nor do our Adversaries deny it, and therefore appeal to the first six hundred years, in which they say the Christian doctrine remained incorrupt. But if the doctrine of the real mutation of bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist, into our B. Saviours body and blood was generally believed in the ninth Age, it must necessarily be taught in the first Age by the Apostles, to their first Converts over all the world, and consequently be most certainly true. For it cannot be doubted but that the first Converts of the H. Apostles, did not only understand what the Apostles taught them concerning this great mystery, but also did thoroughly believe it, and highly esteem it (as they did all other doctrines and practices taught them by the same their first Ma-

them) as not only of exceeding profit above all the things of this
 life, but also as highly necessary to them and their Children to bring
 them to eternal bliss. Which being so, none can doubt but that the
 same first Disciples, both could and would, and actually did teach
 the very same doctrine which they so highly esteemed, as to em-
 brace it with the hazard of their lives, to their Children and Success-
 sors. And this they taught them not as an invention of their own,
 but as a doctrine taught them by the Apostles of Jesus Christ, who
 confirmed their Mission from the infallible God by evident miracles.
 In like manner it cannot be doubted but these taught their Children
 also concerning this mystery what they had been taught by their Fa-
 thers, and not as the invention of their Fathers, but as a doctrine
 taught their Fathers by the undoubted Messengers of Heaven, the
 Holy Apostles. The like may be said of all the intervening Gene-
 rations for the first six hundred years, which our Adversaries do not
 deny, (though it be all one to the force of this Argument, to grant
 so much only for the first four hundred years). Now if Tran-
 substantiation was not taught for the first six hundred years, but the
 contrary; whatsoever age, be it the seventh, eighth, or ninth,
 would begin to teach the doctrine of the real presence of our Lord's
 body in the Sacrament; they could not possibly have the impu-
 dence to tell their Children the bread and wine in the Eucharist were
 turned into the true body and blood of our Saviour; and thus they
 had been taught by their Fathers and Grandfathers uninterruptedly
 from the Apostles. This, I say, it is impossible they could have
 the impudence to assert, when every one must needs know his Fa-
 ther and Grand-father had believed and taught him otherwise. What
 must they pretend then, to impose upon their Children this new and
 strange mysterious Doctrine? They must tell them their Fathers and
 Grand-fathers, and other Ancesters, for some hundreds of years
 had been in an Error, and had forsaken the Doctrine taught by the
 Apostles, and their first Converts as to this mystery, and confirm
 their Assertion by the clear words of Holy Scripture, *Take and Eat,
 this is my Body*, &c. and by other testimonies out of the Writers of
 the first or second Century. But no History makes mention of any
 such manner of bringing in the Doctrine of Transubstantiation in the
 seventh, eighth, or other Century: Therefore it was never so
 brought in, but was always believed; nor indeed could it ever in a-
 ny Century be brought in by the Church of Christ, whose custom
 has ever been, not only in the seventh and eighth, but in every other
 Century.

Century before & after, alwaies to teach, and to pretend to teach her Children, not Doctrines devised or found out by herself by reading the Holy Scriptures or other means, but what was taught her by her Fore-Elders uninterruptedly from the Apostles: and still when Hereticks, or beginners of any new Doctrine, in any age, pretended Scriptures for them, she opposed: we have been taught otherwise by our Ancesters, and to understand those Scriptures in another sense than you understand them. Which way of Teaching a bringer in of a new Doctrine, its evident could not use. For if he did not begin to teach his Child otherwise than he was taught by his Father, he should teach no new or other Doctrine. But if he did begin to teach his Child otherwise than his Father taught him, he could not at the same time tell his Child, that he was taught by his Father, and so upward from the Apostles, when both his own Conscience, and all his Neighbours would testify the contrary. *Cæcilius*, for example, could not tell his Child that he was taught by his Father to deny Transubstantiation. No more could the first Teacher of Transubstantiation in the seventh or other Century, had it been a Novelty tell his Child he was so taught to believe by his Father, but must have pretended to have more light than his Father and Ancesters, as our Adversaries did when they began to deny it. Hence it is evident Transubstantiation was not begun in the seventh or other Century, but was alwaies believed since the Apostles, seeing that in the ninth Century Christians universally believed, that in the holy Eucharist the bread and wine were changed into the body and blood of our Saviour; and as such adored them, and embraced this doctrine of the real presence, not as a doctrine newly found out by themselves, or their immediate Fore-fathers by reading the Holy Scriptures or other means, but as taught them by their Fore-fathers uninterruptedly from the Apostles: and seeing likewise this has ever been the way of the Catholick Church to teach and pretend to teach Posterity not new Doctrines of her own, but what she had learnt from her Ancestors.

Hence *S. Vincent Lirinensis*, twelve hundred years ago, in his Golden Treasise against the profane Innovations of Heresies, upon those words of *S. Paul. Signis, &c. If any man Evangelizes to you, besides what you have received, let him be Anathema. Sed forsitan, &c.* But perhaps those things were commanded the Galatians only. Then those things also which follow in the same Epistle, were commanded the Galatians only. Be not desirous of vain-glory, pro-

making one another, anything one another. Or perhaps what is then commanded, if anyone announce, besides what has been announced, let him be Anathematiz'd; but now it is not commanded. Therefore and that also which he there saies: But I say, walk in the Spirit, and do not perfect the desires of the Flesh, was then only commanded, but is now commended. But if it be impious and pernicious to believe so, it necessarily follows, that as these things are now observed by all Ages, so these things also which are established concerning not changing the Faith, are commanded to all Ages. Wherefore it was never lawful, it is not now lawful, nor ever shall be lawful to Christian Catholics to announce any thing besides what they have received. . . . Let him cry and cry again, and to all, and always, and every where let him cry by his Epistle, that Vessel of Election, that Master of the Gentiles, that Trumpet of the Apostles, that Preacher of the World, Conscience to the secrets of Heaven, let him cry; if any one preach a new Doctrine let him be Anathematiz'd. And on the contrary side, let certain Frogs, and Cynises and Elies that are to perish, such as are the Pelagians reclame and then to Catholics. We say they, being Anabaptists, we being Heads, we being Expositors, Condemn what he did hold what ye did Condemn, reject the ancient Faith, the instructions of your Fathers, the depositum of your Ancestors, and receive; but what? I have a horror to mention them, for they are such proud things, &c. But may not general Councils at least presume to teach new Doctrines? Hear the same St. Kiriakus, chap. 30. *Non semper nos quicquam praeceat, &c.* The Catholic Church is not to be shaken by Hereticks, by the decrees of her Councils evinc'd this, and nothing more than this, what she had received by Tradition only, this she consigned to Posterity by writing, comprehending a great sort of things in a few letters, and for the most part for the light of understanding, signifying the not new sense of Faith with the propriety of a new name.

Take notice that the Christian Church using this means to preserve the Faith first received, its impossible she should ever lose or change it. For if Fathers from the beginning had resolved to teach their Children what they had learnt, or even thought they had learnt from their Parents, as to the point of the Real presence or other doctrine, its impossible they should teach another doctrine. For should they teach another doctrine, it must happen, either because they were ignorant what was taught them by their Parents, which is impossible, not only to whole Nations, but even to the inhabitants,

inhabitants of one small Town, nor else, because, though they know
 what was taught by their Parents, yet they would not subscribe
 that they had been taught; but then they must forsake their first re-
 solution of teaching their Children what they thought they had
 learnt from their Fathers, contrary to the Supposition. But on the
 other side let us suppose a book fully written; as to all points to be
 believed by Christians; by the first teachers of Christianity. Let
 them together, with this Book, give charge to their Converts,
 neither to add to it, nor to diminish it, and to believe as in their
 Consciences they shall think that Book shall teach them. Though
 Generation after Generation be never so faithful to such a charge,
 yet they may in after Ages come to lose or change their Faith, be-
 cause the Book may seem to one Generation to be one sense, and
 to another Generation to bear another. Especially in the mysteries
 to be believed be very sublime, and the Book obscure in many pla-
 ces, and admit of divers senses when it speaks of those mysteries.
 For example; these words, *This is my Body*, may seem to one Age
 to bear this sense, *This is a figure of my body*, and stand here in this
 is really and truly my body. But another Generation, who have been
 taught by their Parents, either to believe our Saviour's body is in
 the Eucharist, or that it is not there, can possibly mistake what their
 immediate Fathers taught them, and frequently mislead to them,
 as to this point, both by themselves and choice persons ordained on
 purpose for this end, to teach what they learnt from their immedi-
 ate Masters and Fathers. Nothing can make a change here, but a
 resolution to go contrary to what they almost always taught them by
 their Parents. Wherefore seeing God Almighty is resolved not to
 teach every Age by immediate infallible Missionaries from himself,
 but to send inspired Ambassadors to one particular Generation only,
 and to leave that Generation to teach their Children successively till
 the day of Judgment; what they learnt from the immediate infallible
 Messengers of Heaven. And seeing also a Book, with a charge not
 to change or alter it, and with a charge also to follow what should
 seem to every Generation to be the sense of it, and supposing every
 Generation faithful to such a charge, would not have been a suffi-
 cient means to keep the first divine Faith from Corruption, we may
 safely conclude the Almighty has not taken that way to teach the
 world. But seeing *Oral* teaching by inspired Pastors at first, with a
 charge to every Generation to follow what they thought was taught
 them by their immediate Parents and Teachers, provided every Ge-
 neration

situation were true to this charge, would have kept the first Faith inviolate; we may also conclude the Almighty has taken this way. Especially finding a Congregation of so vast a spread in being, who pretends to have made use of this means to preserve her first Faith, taught her Ancestors many hundred years ago; nor can she be convinced by any History or Tradition, or any thing but mere sayings and ungrounded Turnises, to have lost or changed her first belief. And if you will make use of a Book to guide you in your Faith, as the Catholick Church also does, you must resolve to interpret it, (if you will be sure not to mistake) as she does; that is, in that sense in which it was understood by your Fathers, and not in that sense it shall seem to bear to you, if contrary to the sense it seemed to bear to your Ancestors. Pardon Sir, this long digression, I hope it will conduce to your more full satisfaction.

And take notice, that wheresoever Transubstantiation is believed, the believers of it profess to have been so taught by their Fore-fathers uninterruptedly from the Apostles: & wheresoever this mystery is denied, the deniers of it do not profess to have been taught to deny it by their Fathers uninterruptedly from the Apostles, but only by their Ancestors for about a hundred and fifty years; and that their Ancestors about the year fifteen hundred, had more light than their Progenitors for about a thousand years, who were all in darkness, and had lost the right Faith taught by the Apostles, and for the first six hundred years of Christianity. An evident conviction this, that the denial of Transubstantiation is a Novelty, and the asserting of it the antient verity. For had Transubstantiation been a new Doctrine, and never heard of before the seventh or eighth Age, the Assertors of it must have been forced to plead for it, after the manner its Opposers plead against it; by saying their Fore fathers only for so long, for example, for eight hundred years had believed it, but in the year eight hundred, their Ancestors had more light than their Fore-fathers, and they by reading the Holy Scriptures and Fathers of the first Century, came to understand that our Saviours true body was in the Holy Eucharist, and that their immediate Progenitors for five or six hundred years, had lost the first Apostolical doctrine as to this mystery.

If you remember I supposed from the confession of our Adversaries, that the Christian Doctrine remained pure and incorrupt for some Centuries of years, after its first planting; which I now shall endeavor to prove. And indeed whosoever maturely considers the

genius and temper of the Christian Doctors and Bishops for the first Centuries after our Saviour, will find it impossible for all the power of Hell to impose a Novelty upon them, especially such as one would make them all Idolaters. For they were not like the seeming Zealots of our Age, pretenders to new lights, but their profession was not to correct Antiquity, nor to deliver to Posterity doctrines of their own devising, but carefully to keep what they had received from their Fore-fathers, and faithfully to teach their Children what they had been taught by their Fathers. And their great Answer to Introducers of new Doctrins or Practices, was, *Nihil novandum nisi quod traditum est: We must innovate nothing, but stick close to what has been delivered to us by our Fore-fathers.* As for pretenders to discover new Truths by reading of the holy Scriptures, its easily conceivable how such persons may be imposed upon by subtle Sophisters, and made to believe erroneous doctrines; to wit, by bad and new Interpretations of good and ancient Scripture. But on the other side, how shall a Teacher of Novelties deceive a Christian Country, which is resolved to hold fast whatsoever doctrine was taught them by their immediate Progenitors, who received the same doctrine by an uninterrupted delivery from Father to Son, from the Apostles? Let him pretend Scripture, and bring a thousand places out of the Law, Psalms, Prophets, and Apostles; what will the Reply be? The Scriptures you alledge we reverence, and have ever been taught to reverence them as divine; but we have been taught to interpret and understand them in another manner and sense than you alledge them. Let him pretend Authority of Doctors, as learned as *Origen*, as Holy as *Cyprian*; nay, if he will, of a whole Provincial Council, as numerous as that in *Africa*, which determined Re-baptization of persons Baptized by Heretics; they Reply, we must not Innovate; we must hold to what was taught us by our Ancestors. What means then to make persons thus disposed to leave their ancient Faith, and admit of a Novelty? You must prove to them, that you and they, and other Christians in several Countrys, have been taught so to believe by your immediate Predecessors, and uninterruptedly From Father to Son, from the Apostles; but then you cease to be a Teacher of Novelties, contrary to the supposition.

Now that such was the disposition of the Primitive Centuries of Christianity, hear *S. Vincent Lirinensis*, who lived in the fifth Age, who testifies, that often asking of very many his Contemporaries,

famous

famous for their Sanctity and Learning: how he might be able to
 discern the Truth of the Catholick Faith from the falsity of Heretical
 pravity, he alway received this Answer in a manner from them all:
Thou if he desired to remain sound in his Faith, he must fortifie it
first with the Authority of the divine Law, and then with the Tradi-
tion of the Catholick Church. That is, as he explicates himself after-
 wards, he must examine what has always, all over the Christian
 Church, and by all Christian Doctors, or in a manner by all, been
 believed, and hold to that Against all Novelty, though defended by
 private Doctors, never so Holy, or never so Learned, or pro-
 ducing never so many Scriptures for themselves, if interpreted after
 a new manner. But saies the same S. Vincent, chap. 2. *Here perhaps*
some-body may ask, seeing the Canon of the Scriptures is perfect, and
as it self sufficient, and more than sufficient for all things, what need is
there to add to it the Authority of the Ecclesiastical, or Churches un-
derstanding of it? Because the Holy Scripture, by reason of its depth,
is not by all taken in one and the same sense. For Photinus expounds
 it one way, Sabellius another, Donatus another, Arius another,
 And ch. 41. He tells us how the third general Council held in his
 days at Ephesus, proceeding according to this rule, condemn'd
 Nestorism. For the Fathers of that Christian Synod, in number a-
 bout 200. having consulted the Sentiment of their Predecessors, the
 eminent Doctors of the Oriental and Western Churches, S. Peter of
 Alexandria, S. Athanasius, S. Theophilus, S. Gregory Nazianzen,
 S. Basil, S. Gregory Nyssa, S. Felix, S. Julian, S. Cyprian, con-
 cerning their controvertie in debate, they resolv'd to hold their
 doctrine, to follow their Counsel, to believe their testimony, to obey
 their Judgment. *Qua tandem, &c.* What were at length (saies
 S. Vincent) the Voices and Votes of them all, but that what was uni-
 versally delivered should be kept: what was of late invented should be ex-
 ploded? After which we admired and proclaimed the great humility
 and sanctity of that Council. In which so many Priests, in a manner
 as to the greater part, were so many Metropolitans, and of so great
 Erudition and Learning, as they were almost all able to dispute of
 Dogms: To whom when they gathering together in one, seem'd to
 add a confidence of daring, with decreeing something from themselves,
 yet notwithstanding they would presume nothing, arrogate nothing at
 to themselves, but took all possible heed lest they should deliver to
 their Posterity what themselves had not received from their Fa-
 thers: and not only well disposed the matter for the present, but also
 for ever

gave example to them that were to come after them; to wit, that they should reverence the dogmas of sacred Antiquity, and condemn (Adinventa) the additional inventions of profane Novelty. This then was not an Age wherein to introduce new doctrines into the Church, nor any other before S. Vincent. For he tells us, chap. 9. *Moriste, &c. That custom has always flourished in the Church, and by how much any one hath been more Religious, the more readily has he opposed new inventions. We have hereof plenty of examples every where.* The same S. Vincent witnesses, that in the third Age, the Assertors of Rebaptization wanted neither wit nor eloquence, nor number, nor verisimilitude of Truth, nor Oracles of the divine Law, but understood in a bad and new manner, chap. 9, and 10. How came they then to lose their cause? S. Stephen and his Collegues reclaimed, *Nil novandum, &c. Nothing is to be innovated besides what has been delivered to us.* Agrippinus, Bishop of Carthage, holding Rebaptization against the rule of the Universal Church, against the sense of all his fellow Priests, against the custom and institutions of his Ancestors; and hereby (as S. Vincent observes) giving a form of Sacrilege to all Hereticks, this overthrew him.

Had now the doctrine of the Real presence been an Idolatrous Novelty, its manifest no Introducer of it could have perswaded it to a Christian Church thus principled as the Doctors of these times were. They would all unanimously have reclaimed; Nothing must be innovated, besides what has been delivered to us by our Ancestors.

Moreover, that the Christian doctrine remained pure and incorrupt for some Centuries of years, after its first planting, is further evinced by considering the state of the Christian Church for the first 300. years; to wit, that it was severely persecuted all the world over. Now can any reasonable man imagin, that they who were continually exposing their lives for their Religion, would if they could agree together, so notoriously to change it, as to make themselves most gross Idolaters by adoring bread and wine, as the true body and blood of their Creator and God. Nor can it be imagin'd when the Centuries of the persecuted state of the Church were ended, that the Christians now in a full liberty of professing and practising their Faith, would all on the sudden so notoriously change that Faith which had been delivered them by their Fore-fathers, who had seal'd it with their blood. And this none can doubt of, who reflects how tenacious all man-kind is of that Religion they were bred up in. In so much, as let any one consult the whole world, and he shall ne-

yer find so much as one Nation or Country, to have changed their Religion without a great deal of noise and difficulty, and a considerable length of time; and so as Posterity could for many Ages give an account of such a change, how and by what means it happened; so as to satisfy any rational demander of an account of such a change, without flying to imperceptible mutations; by little and little, but when or by whom no account is to be given. The usual refuge of our Adversaries, when we demand of them how nor one Country, but all the Christian Countrys in the world, came to believe so universally this strange doctrine of the change of Bread and Wine into our Saviours body and blood. The whole world formerly in a manner Pagan, except a handful of *Jews*, is now become Christians; we give an account of it. Twelve men dividing the world amongst them by stupendous Miracles a holy life and glorious death, converted great numbers of several Nations to the Christian Faith; and these taught it their Children under sharp persecutions for some three hundred years; and after that, through the favour of Emperors and Kings, Converted to be Christians; it made that spread we now see. *Arianism* over-ran a great part of the Christian world, and we are able to give an account how, and by what means, without recurring to imperceptible growing by little and little. *Arius* first broach'd that Heresie, and by the favour of Emperors, it got a great footing in Christendom. In like manner had the strange doctrine of Transubstantiation been a Novel Invention; 'tis not possible, but at first teaching, it must needs have been opposed, and could not have so over-spread the Christian world in the ninth Century, as its evident to any one versed in Ecclesiastical History it did, without great preaching of its first Abettors, and strange favour of Christian Princes. That the whole Christian world, for the first six hundred years, should be wholly ignorant of this strange mysterious doctrine, and so hard to be believed; and that in the ninth Century it should be generally believed, and not as a new doctrine neither, which was pretended by that Age to have been found out by vertue of greater light, by reading the Holy Scriptures, &c. but as a doctrine they had been taught from their Fore-fathers by an immemorable Tradition, is harder to believe than the mystery it self to any judicious considerer; how difficultly, as I hinted above, we are perswaded to leave the doctrines we have been taught by our Parents from our Child-hood.

In confirmation of this, let but any one consider the state of our
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own Country. About the year 1300 we generally believed and adored the bread and wine to be the Body of Christ, as our B. Saviour's true body and blood. Now 'tis confess'd, we, a hundred for one, believe the contrary. But how was this new Faith bred in us? By stopping the mouths of all the Preachers of the ancient mysterious doctrine, and by persecuting with severe Laws, all Professors of that ancient Faith. And yet you see even all this diligence has not been able to root out the ancient belief universally neither. Much less was what has been done, been effected so without noise, but all our Chronicles mention how our new belief was wrought. And can any one think that not one Kingdom, but all the Kingdoms of the Christian world, could be brought so universally to change their Faith without any mention in any History, how and by whom this strange change was wrought? Especially if we reflect how hardly human nature does believe strange things which neither sense nor reason can give any evidence of: And on the contrary, how easily and gladly we relinquish Beliefs which have been imposed upon us, when we have, as we think, the evidence both of sense and reason for our change. All which notwithstanding, you see how that after a 150. years labour, neither eloquence of false Teachers, nor force of civil powers, has been able so wholly to pervert our Nation as to the belief of that high mystery of the real presence, but even still there remain a considerable number retainers of the ancient belief. And can you think that not in a much greater space of time, to wit, betwixt the sixth and ninth Century all the Christian world could be persuaded to admit so strange a doctrine to nature and reason; and yet no man by virtue of History or Tradition should be able to give any account what Orators prevailed with the world to relinquish the belief of their Ancestors, or what power of civil Magistrates forced them to it? Especially seeing there have not wanted Ecclesiastical Historiographers who have made mention of matters of far less note than such a change of Faith must needs have made. But what place will there remain for doubting, that this high mystery was always believed, if not only all writers be silent as to any change, but also the seventh and eighth Age; yea, the most Primitive times do positively attest this very mystery by the pens of the chiefest Champions of the Christian Church, who have left us any memorials of their learning and piety in their deservedly admired works? I shall faithfully recount their words; be your own Judge what their sentiment was.

In the first place then, glorious Saint, and great Doctor S. *Augustin*, tell us your Faith concerning the Holy Eucharist; Is it Bakers bread, or the body of our Lord and God? *Remember*, saies the holy Doctor in his 28. Ser. *de verbis Domini*, when I treated of the Sacraments, I told you that before the words of Christ, that which is offered up is called Bread, but when the words of Christ shall have been pronounced, now it is no longer called bread, but the body of Christ. And explicating those words of the Royal Prophet, *Psal. 98. v. 5* Exalts ye our Lord God, and adore his foot-stool, for it is holy. Now what is this Foot-stool of God? why saies this great Doctor, The Earth is his Foot-stool. But how is the Earth holy, and to be adored by us? The Saint goes on and tells us how: Our Lord took Earth of the Earth, because Flesh is of the Earth; and he took Flesh of the Flesh of Mary. And because he walked here in Flesh, and gave to us that very Flesh to be eaten by us to our Salvation; but no body eats that Flesh, unless he shall first have adored it. And indeed what could we expect that S. *Augustin* should teach and believe concerning this divine Sacrament, but what he had been taught by his Father and Instructor in Christ, the glorious St. *Ambrose*. And what was that? Hear his words, *lib. 4. De Sacramentis*. Thou wilt perhaps say unto me, my Bread is ordinary Bread; but that bread is bread before the Sacramental words; but when Consecration has been made of bread, it is made the Flesh of Christ. But how can bread be the body of Christ? By Consecration: Consecration; by what and whose words is it perfected? By the words of our Lord Jesus. For all other things which are said, Praise is given to God: By prayer supplication is made for the people, for Kings, for the rest. When the time is come that the Venerable Sacrament is to be made, now the Priest does not use his own words, but the words of Christ; therefore the word of Christ makes this Sacrament. But what word of Christ? That word by which all things were made. Our Lord commanded and Heaven was made; our Lord commanded and the Earth was made: Our Lord commanded, and the Seas were made: Our Lord commanded, and every Creature was produced. Dost thou see then how operative the word of Christ is? If then there be so great force in the word of our Lord Jesus, that it could make things which were not begin to be; how much rather is it operative, that those things which were, should be, and be changed into another thing? Heaven was not, the Sea was not, the Earth was not; but hear him saying: He said the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they were Created. That therefore I may

may Answer thee; the body of Christ was not before Consecration; but after Consecration, I say unto thee, that now the Body of Christ is. He said it, and it was made: "He commanded, and it was Created. And in chap. 5. of the same Book. Before the words of Christ, the Chalice is full of Wine and Water; but when the words of Christ have had their operation, then it is made the blood which Redeemed the people. See then in how many kinds of things the word of Christ is able to change all things. Moreover our Lord Jesus himself testifies unto us, that we receive his body and blood; ought we then to doubt of his testification?

Add to S. Austin and S. Ambrose, the Learned S. Hierom in his Epistle ad Heliodorum. Far be it from me, saies the Saint, that I should speak am's of those who succeeding the Apostles, do make the body of Christ with their sacred mouth. And in his 85. Epistle to Enagium. By whose prayers the body and blood of Christ is made. Take notice that these three Holy Fathers lived not four hundred years after our B. Saviours death. S. Cyprian yet nearer the Apostles age, does no less clearly nor fully attest the same verity, in his Serm. de Cena Domini. That bread which our Lord gave to his Disciples, being changed not in shape, but in its nature, by the Omnipotency of the Word was made Flesh. And in his Book, de lapsis; reprehending such as were angry with the Priests of God, who refused to admit them to the holy Communion of the B. Sacrament, after they had polluted themselves with the profane Sacrifices of Heathen Idolaters, expresses their sin in these words. He that has fall'n from his Faith, threatens them that have stood firm. Sacrilegious wretch, he is angry with the Priests of God, that he is not presently admitted with defiled hands to receive the Body of our Lord, or to drink his blood with his defiled mouth. And this was the very doctrine of his learned Master Tertullian, who yet nearer approached the holy Apostles; lib. de Resur. car. The Flesh is fed with the body and blood of Christ, that the soul may be made sat with God. And in his Book de Idololatria, he complains of the profaneness of some Christians, who made no scruple to day to be working in their Shops, making Idolatrous Statues for the Heathens, and yet to morrow would presume to come into the Christian Congregations, and receive the Sacred mysteries of our Lords body and blood; and communicate them to others. His words are these; To touch the body of our Lord with those hands which give bodies to Devils. Ngr is this all; their Crime would be less, did they only receive from the hands of others what they

contaminate and pollute; but moreover they deliver to others what they have polluted. Makers of Idols are admitted into the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy. O Impiety! Once the Jews laid profane hands on Christ; these daily violate his body: O hands deserving to be cut off!

But shall we desire a Greek Father or two, to give us their sense concerning our present Controversie. S. Crysoſt. ho. 60. ad. pop. Antioch. Because the Word saies, This is my Body, let us assent and believe. And a little after, How many are there now adaies that say, O that I could see his Figure, his Garments, his Shoes? Lo thou seest himself, thou touchest him, thou eatest him. Thou desirest to see his Garments, but he give thee not only to see, but also to eat and touch, and take himself into thee. And a little after, Consider what an indignation thou hast against the Traitor Judas, and against those that Crucified him: Therefore consider lest thou also beest not guilty of the body and blood of Christ. They killed his most holy body; and thou receivest it with a polluted soul after so many benefits. For he was not satisfied to be made man, to be Buffeted and Crucified: but moreover, he does mix himself with us, and makes us his body, not only by Faith, but in very deed. And ho. 24. in Ep. 1. ad Corin. Christ has given us his body, both that we might have it and might eat it, which is the greatest sign of love. Wherefore Job chap. 31. that he might shew the love of his Servants to him, said they oftentimes of their exceeding great love to him, would say concerning him, Who will give us of his Flesh, that we might be filled with it. Even so Christ has given us his Flesh, that we might feed upon it, thereby to allure us to love him very much. This body the Sages adored in the Manger. — Thou seest it not in the Manger, but upon the Altar; not a Woman holding it in her arms, but a Priest presents. — Nor do I show thee Angels, nor Arch-angels, nor Heaven, nor the Heaven of Heavens, but the very Lord of all these things. — Nor dost thou only see him, but touch him; not only touch him, but eat him; and having received him, returns to thy home. And Hom. 60. ad pop. Antioch. and 82. in Math. Let us every where believe God, and not oppose him, although that which he saies seem absurd to our sense and thoughts; let his speech overcome both our sense and our reason; which let us do in all things, and especially in the Mysteries, not only regarding those things which he before us, but also holding fast to his words. For we cannot be deceived by his words, but our sense is most easily deceived: those cannot be false, this is deceived very often. Because therefore he has said this is my body, let us make no doubt but believe, and see it with the eyes.

get of our understanding. And in his 3. ho. in Ep. ad Ephes. Let us think that him that sits above, who is adored by the Angels, is him that we eat, that we feed upon. And ho. 2. ad pop. Amicæ. Elias left his Disciple his Mantle, but the Son of God ascending, left us his Flesh. But Elias indeed put off his Mantle, but Christ both left us his Flesh, and retaining it, ascended with it. Let us not therefore be disheartened, nor lament, nor fear the difficulty of the times. For he that has not refused to shed his blood for us, and has communicated to us both his flesh and blood, will not refuse to do any thing for our Salvation.

Hear another Greek Doctor, S. Cyril of Jerusalem, in his Catechistical discourses, which are the plainest declarations of the mysteries of our holy Faith. Catech. 4. Mys. Seeing then Christ himself so affirms and says concerning the bread, This is my body, who after this can dare to doubt of it? and the same also affirming and saying, This is my blood, who I say can doubt of it, and say it is not his blood. He changed water into wine in Cana of Galilee, by his sole Will, and shall he not be worthy whom we may believe, that he changed wine into his blood? For if being invited to a corporeal Wedding, he wrought a stupendous miracle, shall we not confess him much rather to have given his body and blood to the Children of the Bridegroom? Wherefore with all assurance let us take the body and blood of Christ; for under the appearance of bread, is given to thee his body; and under the appearance of wine, is given his blood; that having received the body and blood of Christ, thou mayest be made partaker together with him of his body and blood. So shall we be Christophers, such as carry Christ in them, when we shall have received his body and blood into our Members; and so as S. Peter saies, shall be made partakers of the divine Nature. . . . Do not therefore look upon it as bare bread and bare wine; for it is the body and blood of Christ, according to the words of our Lord himself. For although thy sense suggest this to thee, yet let Faith confirm thee; do not judge of the thing by thy tast, but rather from Faith hold for certain, so that thou hast no doubt that the body and blood are given to thee. Knowing and accounting for most certain, that this bread which is seen by us is not bread, although our tast judge it to be bread, but that it is the body of Christ. And the wine, which is seen by us, although it may seem wine to our sense of tasting, that yet it is not wine but the blood of Christ. Can the holy Council of Trent have plainer words than these, or fuller to our present purpose. Add the testimony of S. Justin Martyr, who lived yet nearer the Age of the Apo-

Apostles, in his Apology for the Christians to *Anonimus* the Emperor, in which he gives him an account of the Christian Faith; and where certainly he would not make it more mysterious than it was, nor more hard to be believed, according to any part of it, then the truth and common belief of Christians forced him; but rather would moderate the mysteriousness of it, than encrease it. Hear him then giving an account of the Holy Eucharist. *This meat is called by us the Eucharist, because no body may partake of it, but he who believeth those things to be true which we say, and lives so as Christ has taught us. For we do not take these things as common and ordinary bread, but as by the word of God, our Saviour Jesus Christ was made man, and had flesh and blood for our Salvation; so we have been taught that this meat, which is Consecrated by the Prayers of that speech we received from him, is the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, who was made man. For the Apostles in their Commentaries, which are called Gospels, have delivered that Christ so commanded, and that having taken bread, when he had given thanks, he said, Do this in memory of me, This is my Body; and having taken the Cup, when we had given thanks, he said also, This is my blood, and gave it to them only.* Mark how this holy Father saies, that what we have received concerning the holy Eucharist, is, that it is both the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, who was made man. Now would any man in his wits have given such an account of the Christian Faith to an unbelieving Heathen, with a desire to Convert him, and to recommend our holy Faith to him, had the blessed Eucharist been a mere sign of the flesh and blood of Christ. This he would easily have understood to be very feasible, whereas the other strangely shocks both his sense and reason. For other Testimonies out of these and other Holy Fathers, I refer you to our Books of Controversie on this Subject, which are full of them.

And who now that has the least grain of Humility and Modesty, would not blush to accuse so many and so grave Doctors of Christ's Church of Idolatry and damnable Error? And here Sir, you must give me leave to bespeak our Adversaries in the words of *S. Augustin*, directed by him to *Julian the Pelagian*, after a like Citation, about another matter, of these very Holy Fathers by me now cited, as to a good part of them. *Tu qui tam crebro, &c. Thou sadly deluded Calvinist, that dost so often object to us Catholick Christians the crime of Idolatry for adoring the Holy Eucharist; if thou beest awake, see what and what kind of men, and how glorious Defenders of*
this

the Christian Faith, thou dar'st to bespatter under our names, with execrable a Crimination. Go now and object to us the crime of Idolatry, dissemble and feign thy self not to know what they say in this point, over-look themselves if wise, and attack us only, as not knowing that under our name they are reviled; and confidently insult over so many and so great Doctors of the Church of Christ, who after a most Saintly life, and having beaten down the Errors of their times, most gloriously went out of this life before you and your Camerades babbled up. Dost thou see with what kind of men we sustain thy reproaches; dost thou see with whom we have the same common cause, which without any sober consideration thou Calumniate and endeavours to expugn? Dost thou see, proud Calvinist, how pernicious it is unto thy self, to object so horrible a crime of Idolatry to such men as these, and how glorious it is to us to sustain the charge of any crime, together with such Doctors? Or if thou dost see, see, and hold thy peace, and let so many Catholick tongues silence thy Calvinistical tongue, and submit thy brazen forehead to the venerable mines of so many grave Fathers. The Russian Polemus to compleat his wilde ramble, would needs early in the morning, half Drunk with his Night-Revels, go to the School of the Grave Sophist Xenocrates, to affront him and his Scholars. But he was no sooner entred the School of that sober Platonist, but the very sight of the modest and grave Comportment of the Philosopher and his Scholars did so strike my young gallant, that he was quite out of Countenance; and ashamed of himself, he pull'd off his drunken bays, and compos'd himself to modesty, and became his Convert, whom he came on purpose to deride and scoff at. Such force had the grave Countenances of a sober Platonist and his School to compleat a rude Russian. Finding my presumptuous Calvinist drunk with pride and self-conceit, I could think of no better means to reduce him to Sobriety, then to bring him, not into the School of a sober Ethnick Philosopher, but into a grave Assembly of the most memorable Bishops and Doctors of the School of Christ. To whom certainly so much a greater Reverence and respect is due, by how much their Doctor and Master Christ, is greater then Xenocrates's Master and Doctor Plato. I desire now my conceited Calvinist, that thou wouldst think it worth thy while, to eye, to look upon so many and so grave Prelates of the Catholick Church; and imagin them to look as it were upon thee, and mildly and gently to say unto thee: *Itane nos fili Juliane, &c.* Is it so indeed Son Stillingfleet, are we Idolaters? What answer wouldst thou give them? With what face wouldst thou look upon them? What arguments would occur to thee? Wouldst thou

dare, wouldst thou have the face to produce such wooden Daggers as thou art ever and anon drawing upon us? Or rather would not such pitiful Weapons fall out of thy hand, at the presence of so great Doctors, and such grave Prelates of Gods Church? Wouldst thou have the forehead to call the great S. Augustin, our B. Lord said, Do this in remembrance of me; the words which I speak unto you are spirit and life; I am a Door, I am a true Vine, &c. As if that great Doctor and his venerable Fellows could be ignorant of such petty Cavils as those.

Tantum apud te, &c. Can a Calvin, or a Stillingfleet have so much Authority with any person of sobriety, that he should for their regards, not only forsake so many and so great Doctors and defenders of the Christian Faith, from the rising of the Sun to the going down thereof; but also dare to call them Idolaters and Abettors of damnable Errors? I desire my conceited Calvinist, would but consider into what an Assembly I have brought him. 'Tis an Assembly of Saintly Doctors, not of the popular multitude: Such as were not only Children, but Fathers of the Church; famous in their Generations for Learning and Sanctity, who well furnished with spiritual Weapons, strenuously warred against the Hereticks of their days, and having happily finished the labours of their dispensation, holily went to rest in peace. Nor was the doctrine we are now disputing, any new devised Opinion of theirs; but what they learned in the Church of Christ, in the time of their Rudiments, that they taught the Church of Christ in time of their Honors. That which they found in the Church, that they held. That which they received from their Fathers, they delivered to their Children. And if my Calvinist will perhaps say, he does not charge S. Augustin, or S. Chrysostom with the crime of Idolatry, he must give me leave to tell him, nor then does he justly charge us, whom he sees in the same cause to have followed their steps. But if he will only reproach us with such a Calumny, nor for any other reason, but because we think concerning the holy Eucharist what they thought, hold what they held, preach what they preached; who does not see that he openly reviles us only, but secretly has the like judgement of them? For what they believe, we believe; what they teach, we teach, yield to them, and you yield to us; acquiesce in their sentiments, and you'll cease to condemn ours. Moreover this grave Assembly of ancient Doctors, to whom we appeal, then judged concerning this our cause, when no body could say they had favor or ill will for either party. They had neither friendship nor enmity with you or us. We did not as yet appeal with you to them as Judges, and our cause

cause was decided by them. Neither you nor we were known to them, and we receive their sentence given for us against you. We did not meet or confest with you, and they pronouncing sentences for us, we have ever since come you. Or will my Calvinist have the impudence to accuse (as I am to do) these grave Doctors of blindness? A multitude of blind men forsooth avails nothing to find out the Truth! and these were the errors and mistakes of those learned Prelates. What an age are we fallen into? Truth must be called error, and error truth, light, darkness, and darkness light. S. Augustin, S. Ambrose, S. Crisostom, S. Hierom are blind, but Calvin and Stillingfleet see.

These Doctors I have called a Council of, were persons of such Learning and Sanctity, that if a Synod of Bishops were gathered out of the whole world, it would be much if so many, and such Doctors could be found to sit in it. Neither indeed were these all at one time, but God Almighty as pleases him, and as he judges to be expedient, scatters a few more excellent and faithful dispensers of his mysteries, in several Ages, and distances of places. By such Planters, Waterers, Builders, Pastors, nursing Fathers after the Apostles, the holy Church has encreased. Now what an impudence, and what an impudence must it be for any to presume to accuse of the horrible crime of Idolatry, so many holy, egregious, and memorable Doctors of the Catholick Verity, and moreover together with them the whole Church of Christ; in which divine Family they faithfully Ministering spiritual Food, flourished with great glory in our Lord. Nay further, they who dare to oppose the manifest Sentiment, not of so many Platonical, Aristotellian or Zenonick Doctors, but of so many Saints and illustrious Prelates in the Church of God, and these some of them singularly endowed with human literature, and all of them eminently learned in the Sacred Letters, have reason not so much to fear them, as him who made them profitable Vessels to himself. These I judge, by how much the more desirable they ought to be unto thee, if thou didst hold the Catholick Faith, by so much thou hast more reason to fear them, because thou opposeth the Catholick Faith, which they ministered to little and great, and manifestly and stoutly defended against its Enemies, yea against you, then not as yet born, for not only when they lived did they by their words, but also by their writings which they left to posterity, did they strenuously defend the Catholick Faith, that they might break in pieces your Arguments. Hic ubi S. Augustin, l. 1. c. 6. 2. Contra Julianum. I thought fit to adjoin this Reflexion of S. Augustin, though superabundant to the force of any Argument, it being sufficient for my purpose to

prove that the doctrine of the Real presence was generally believed in the Primitive Centuries of Christianity, and so much evidently follows from the Authorities above cited. For though some may be so self-conceited as to confess that S. Ambrose, S. Crystostom, and the rest of the holy Fathers, Greek and Latin, believed the doctrine of the Real presence, but they with humble submission deemed it to be an idolatrous and damnable doctrine: yet few I think but have so much regard for these Primitive Doctors, as to allow them so much judgement, as to know what was the belief of their several Churches in their daies, and so much fidelity as to write the Truth as to this particular, which is sufficient for the purpose of my discourse. Unless you can think that these holy Fathers were of one Faith, and their several Flocks, who revered them as Saints, of another.

An Answer to an Objection.

But you will say, if there be such a miraculous change wrought in the bread and wine in the holy Eucharist, why does it not appear to our senses, as well as other miraculous works of our Lord Jesus did? When he turn'd water into wine, it appeared such to the sight and taste of the Guests at the Marriage-Feast. He did not barely tell them, the water was turn'd into wine, and exact their belief of his word, contrary to the evidence of all their senses, but convinced them that it was so by their very senses. Why then in our present case, if he turn wine into his blood, does it not appear to our sight to be blood? But barely to tell us, that it is his blood, and yet to let it taste and appear as it did, how is this credible? How is it not contrary to one, but to all the Miracles that ever he wrought? And this Argument is further strengthened, for that it would hence follow, we might call in question the whole mystery of Christianity. For we therefore believing in our Lord Jesus, as one indeed sent from God, to teach us nothing but Truth, because of his Miracles, and we having no assurance of his Miracles but from our senses, if our senses may be mistaken, how can we tell but those who were eye-witnesses of his wonders were illuded: and water, for example, was not turned by him into wine, but only seemed wine to the taste and sight of those which were present, and indeed remained water as before. For why may not water remain watery, and yet seem to my taste wine, as well as wine be changed into blood, and yet seem to my taste and sight to remain wine?

For Answer to this Objection, we must distinguish two sorts of
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Miracles, with the ends for which they are wrought. Some Miracles are wrought by Almighty God, to draw the world to the Christian Faith; and these must necessarily be the object of our senses; else it could not reasonably be expected, they should work their intended effect in them for whose sakes they are wrought. For example; If any one will by Miracle prove he is sent from God, by raising a dead man to life, or by turning water into wine; he must make it evident to my senses, that the man who was dead is alive, and the water now wine, and not barely tell me so. Else he will be derided as an Impostor and impudent Lye, instead of being admired and received as a Messenger from Heaven, and Oracle of Truth. There are other Miracles which are wrought by the Almighty, not as a motive to induce us to receive the true Faith, but to sanctify us when we have received it, or for the necessity of working the salvation of the world. Such are the Miracles of the Incarnation of the Son of God, and all the spiritual effects wrought in the souls of Christians by any of the Sacraments. Now these miraculous effects are not the object of our senses, nor is there any reason they should be. For the Church of Christ does not urge these to persuade Unbelievers to acknowledge the true Faith; but only professes, that by these her members are sanctified. For example; we say by Baptism as an outward and visible sign, is wrought an invisible grace in the soul of the person Baptized. Though view the Child as much as you please, you can by none of your senses perceive any mutation to be wrought. In like manner the Church professes to believe the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God: that our Lord Jesus, though to outward appearance a mere man, was also true God, and yet by no sense was the Hypostatical Union of his soul and body to the Second person of the blessed Trinity, discernable. This was no doubt a great Miracle; yea the miracle of miracles wrought amongst us; but the end of its working, being not by it as a motive to draw the world to Christianity, but to constitute a fit person for the working of the salvation of the world, it was not necessary it should be the object of our senses. The same Lord and Saviour telling us that he was God, though we could discern no Characters of Divinity in him by any of our senses, he saying that he was God, & proving by other Miracles to our senses, that he was sent from God to teach us nothing but Truth; this was sufficient to secure our belief of his Deity. In like manner, in the mystery of the holy Eucharist, this miraculous change being not wrought, to allure Strangers to the Christian Faith,

Faith, but to sanctifie Believers, and to work all those spiritual effects in them above-mentioned, by being received by them, and offered up in their presence for them, &c. it was not requisite this change should be the object of our senses. Nay it was necessary it should not be the object of our senses. For it being wrought to the intent we should eat and drink our dear Lord his body and blood, it was necessary only the substance of bread and wine, should be turned into the substance of our Lords flesh and blood, the accidents of bread and wine remaining; for that otherwise we should have a horror to eat raw flesh, and drink true appearing blood.

As to the confirmation of the Argument, that hence it would follow we cannot trust our senses, and consequently not be certain of any miracle wrought by our Saviour. To this I Answer; We may alwaies trust our senses about their own objects, and in due circumstances, and when we have not positive grounds to think, either God Almighty by himself, or by an Angel, or permissively by a Devil, represents things otherwise then they are. The three Children in the fiery Furnace, might really think themselves in the midst of scorching Flames, though they felt them not, because they had reason to surmise God Almighty wrought a miracle; out of those circumstances they had no reason to believe any thing to be ordinary fire, which should not burn as fire. Nor must they for this, for ever after be in doubt, whether they were not environed with Flames of fire or no. Nor must *Abram*, because once in a particular circumstance he mistook three Angels for three men; therefore never after believe his eyes, whether he saw a man or no, unless he first pinched him by the arm, and felt that he had flesh and blood as himself. Nor must one who in the presence of a Conjuror had taken pibble stones for grapes, for ever after be doubtful whether he saw grapes or no, till he tasted them. Nor does it follow, *S. Mary Magdalen* could not be certain she ever saw our B. Saviour, because once her senses were mistaken concerning him, taking him for the Gardener. And in our present case, our B. Saviour telling us that the Holy Eucharist is his body, we have all reason to think that by miracle he makes it to be so, whatsoever it seems to our senses. Nor do Catholics therefore, out of such a circumstance, doubt of all the bread they see, whether it be not their Lords body or no? Though I must tell you, even here your senses are not mistaken; for they do perceive what they seem to perceive; that is the Accidents of bread and wine, which remain and affect them in the same manner,

manner, as when the substance under them, was the substance of bread and wine, but now is the substance of our Lords body, and blood. Substances are not discernable by any sense; only we conclude by a Physical certitude, such a substance is under such a complex of Accidents, when we have not positive grounds that God Almighty works a miracle, as here we have; he saying expressly of this object before us, 'Tis his body, and 'tis his blood.

But if there be so much to be said for this great mystery, how comes it to pass so many have so great difficulty to believe it? It is not because the mystery is not highly credible, but it is partly from Nature and partly from Education, and partly from want of a serious and frequent consideration of those Arguments which strongly evince the credibility of it, and partly for want of strange desires of the happiness of the other life, and of a heart void of inordinate affections to the things of this life, Pleasures, Riches, and Honors. 'Tis partly from Nature I say. For 'tis not more difficult to our senses to practice Sobriety, Temperance, Chastity and Fasting, then it is to our understanding to assent to Truths which seem to shock our reason and senses, though proposed by never so great Authority. Should you have seen our B. Saviour sucking his Mothers Breast in the Stable of *Bethlehem*, whosoever should have told you, the little Infant there was God Almighty, the maker of Heaven and Earth, Nature would have found a great difficulty to believe so strange an assertion, and no less then it does now to believe that a little Wafer in the hands of a Priest, is the same Christ both God and man, veiled under the appearance of the common accidents of bread. But had it been moreover from your infancy continually noysed in your ears, by such as you revered for their learning and skill in divine matters, that it was impossible for God to become man; this would strangely have encreased your difficulty to believe a little Infant, in nothing different as to outward appearance from other Children, should be God. But if to all this you should add, never or very seldom, and slightly to consider the positive Arguments for the belief of that mystery of the Incarnation, but were ever still poring upon the difficulty, and unlikeliness and seeming impossibility of any such thing, 'tis not possible you should ever come to the belief of it, though the mystery be never so true in it self, nor the Arguments to prove it, never so evident and cogent. But this is the case of us generally in *England*, as to the mystery of the B. Sacrament, and therefore no wonder if generally it be not believed by

us; but we rather wonder at their stupidity and fond credulity, who can believe any such thing.

But to get a right, strong and well-grounded Faith concerning this high mystery, what must we do? First Reflect we are Christians, and as such must necessarily believe very many strange things, unless we will renounce Christianity. For example; we must believe that there are three distinct Persons, and every one of these is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but only one God. We must also believe this one God is infinitely merciful, and yet he will permit millions of souls to lament and howl amidst scorching Flames for ever, though with a word he could ease them of all their pains. Moreover we must believe that 1600. years ago, one of the three divine Persons was incarnate, and became a true mortal man, flesh and blood as we are; and after 33. years, which he lived upon our Earth, he was nailed to a Cross, Hands and Feet, till he died; and after three daies came to life again, and after 40. days ascended into Heaven, where he remains to this day. These would seem strange things to believe, to one that should never have heard them before; and yet stranger to one, that from his Childhood should have been taught to laugh at such stories as mere Fables and idle fictions of cheating Priests, who knew them well enough to be such; but for their own gain and interest seem'd to believe them, and with a great deal of Confidence, taught them for infallible Truths to the credulous multitude. Which being so, Reflect 2d y. No Christian must boggle at any thing as to the belief of it, merely for the strangeness of it, and seeming unlikeliness to his senses, or reason. But must consider what grounds he has to judge the strange mystery he is required to believe, was taught his Fore-fathers by our B. Saviour and his Apostles; and if he find he has good grounds for this, he must immediately submit his understanding, and believe it. 3dly. Let us reflect upon the state of our own Country, as it is at present, and as our Annals represent it to have been ever since our first Receiving of the Christian Faith. At present we have a considerable number of Families who believe Transubstantiation, and have believed it from their Fore-fathers time out of mind, and they say ever since the first planting of the Christian Faith amongst us. We have also far greater multitudes who do not believe it, but yet so as there's scarce one who is fifty years old, whose great Grand-father did not believe it, but when his great Grand-father, or his great Grand-fathers Ancesters began to believe it, we are able to give no account. More-

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over two hundred years ago, in all the several Shires or Provinces of England we all universally, Bishops, Priests, and People, Rich and Poor, Learned and Unlearned believed it: And this not as a new Doctrine found out by themselves by reading the holy Scriptures. No. They were Enemies to all Novelties, and professed they must hold fast what had been taught by their Fore-elders, and interpret Scripture in the sense their Fore-elders had done. Now how is it possible they should come to believe such a strange Doctrine, unless it had been taught them from their Fore-fathers, and the first Preachers of Christianity in our Nation? Especially they not reading the holy Scriptures as we do now, nor having such store of Bibles, that they might perhaps by their private reading have come to believe this hard and high mystery contrary to what had been taught them by their Fore-elders. How came they to learn it then? Did they some strange morning or other, all awake of a different belief from what they had been of the Evening before? Or did it come into some Schollars head by studying the holy Scriptures, reading for example those words, This is my body, so often repeated in the Evangelists & S. Paul; and he hereupon was convinced they had all been in an Error for so many years, and by Preaching and Disputing perswaded others? But how comes it to pass then, we having had Historians that have mentioned far less Matters, yet say not a word of any such thing? Or did the Britons before S. Austin the Monk, believe no such thing? How came they then not to clash about it, or if they did, how comes it to pass other differences are recorded and this is omitted? Besides if S. Austin taught it our Ancestors, he confirm'd the Religion he taught by miracles, as all our Stories testify. And also he lived within the first 600 years, to which Dr. N. N. in one of his Sermons appeals: Nor did that blessed man pretend to teach us a new Religion neither, newly found out at Rome, but what was alwaies believed ever since S. Peter.

¶ Let us consider why we are Christians, and we shall find if we be so rationally and groundedly, and not merely because we were so brought up from our Childhood: I say we shall find our Faith to be grounded upon such principles, as if we be true to them, they will force us as strongly to believe Transubstantiation as the Incarnation, the Real presence as the Deity of our Saviour. For example, I believe the man Jesus Christ, who lived 1600. years ago, was also God. And why? Because he said he was so, and proved by evident miracles that he was sent to teach the World Truth, and nothing but Truth.

And why all this? Because it could not stand with the providence of God, to suffer a Deceiver to work such miracles as he wrought, teaching withal, and practising such sanctity as he did. For then the most sincere desirers to know the Truth would be most subject to miss of it. But how do I know Jesus Christ wrought such miracles? Because I find them Recorded in certain Books, which several Nations all over the World, have immemorially looked upon as faithful & true stories, ever since the time the miracles are said to have been wrought. Now 'tis not possible but the men then alive must needs certainly know whether he did work such strange miracles or no. And if they had known no such thing was wrought by him, but that these things were at first feigned by some of his Friends, and afterwards committed to writing by them, they could never contrary to the evidence of their own knowledge, have told unanimously such notorious Lyes to their Posterity, and have made them believe them as they did. Nor could have recommended the Books wherein they were Recorded to their Children, and have made them reverence them as unquestionable and infallibly certain Histories, as they did. But how do I know that Jesus Christ taught that he was God? vvhby certainly the Apostles understood him vvhath he said concerning himself; vvhether he were only a holy man like to their great *Moses*, or else were true and substantially God, and consequently to be Worshipped by them as such. And no doubt but they taught their first Converts vvhath they had learnt from their Master Jesus as to this point, and their Converts their Children till *Arriv*; the Church being till then under Persecution, and consequently cannot be supposed all that vvhile so notoriously to have changed their Faith, they were every day in danger to dye for. Now finding the vvhole Christian World in the belief of the Divinity of our Saviour, and Worshipping him as God, and this immemorially from their Fore-fathers, and as they professed from the Apostles. So as *Arriv* never went about to evince them, that such or such a Doctor in such an Age since the Apostles, had brought in the new Doctrin of our Lords Divinity: and finding him also called God in the Holy Scriptures, and vvhole Nations of Christians immemorially understanding them in a proper, literal sense, and not only in the sense vvhich Kings and Princes are called God; notwithstanding all *Arriv* his reasons drawn from the Impossibility of the thing, or from Scriptures understood by him after a new manner; I conclude my Saviour was true God. In like manner no doubt but our B. Savi-

viour taught his Apostles concerning the holy Eucharist, whether it was only a sign of his body, or else his true body, and consequently to be adored and worshipt by them or no. And no doubt but they taught their first Converts what they had learnt from their Master concerning this mystery, and these their Posterity the same for the first 300. years of the Churches Persecution. Now finding whole Christian Countries in the time of *Berengarius*, about the year one thousand und fifty, unanimously believing the holy Eucharist to be our Lords true body, and adoring it as such, and this as they professed immemorially from their Ancesters, from the Apostles, and *Berengarius* never undertaking to show, when or how this strange belief was wrought in the Christian Church, nor finding any beginning of it in any Ecclesiastical History of any one Country, and finding it also called so expressly over and over our Lords body, and whole Countries understanding those sacred Texts in a proper sense, and not one Christian Province understanding them otherwise; for all *Berengarius* his Arguments, drawn as he pretended from the impossibility of the thing, or from Scriptures by him interpreted after a new manner, the wont of all misbelievers, I conclude it is our Lords true body.

5. Let us consider impartially the testimony of the present Church in communion with the See of *Rome*, which avers the Holy Eucharist to be our B. Saviours true body. Travel in your thoughts, all over *Europe*, *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, and view well the vast multitudes of Roman Catholicks in the present Age, and by the confession of our Adversaries in the ten last Ages. Take notice of their circumstances, of Learning, Study, Vertue, Meditation, Retiredness from all secular encumbrances, as to vast multitudes of them; the prodigies of Sanctity, we profess to have appeared amongst us in several Ages, like the extraordinary Prophets of old amongst the Jews, to awaken drowfie souls: Our *Bennets*, *Bernards*, *Cuthberts*, *Bedes*, *Dominicks*, *Francis's*, *Ignatius's*, &c. The miracles we undoubtedly believe in every Century since the Apostles; yea, in this very Age wrought amongst us. For which we have such Records, as you have no way to evade, but by saying they are forged, without any further proof then your own uncharitable surmise. Records of such wonders, so publick and notorious, as had they been false, the Ages wherein they are said to have been wrought, could not be ignorant of it, and consequently could not unanimously have told their Posterity such notorious Lyes, nor

have recommended the Books to them, wherein they are recounted as true stories. Consider moreover how this numerous Congregation professes her self to be the Mistress of Truth, the Light of the World, fitly for this end dispersed in all Countrys throughout all Ages, with indefatigable Industry scattering the rayes of the Gospel by her Missionants throughout the whole Earth, fearing no encounter, but challenging the whole world to dispute of what they will, and as long as they will, of the most strange Articles of her Faith. And then think if it could not stand with the providence of the all good God, to permit one single person, our Lord Jesus, for three or four years in one small Country, to Alarm the World with stupendous miracles and doctrines of Sanctity, unless he had been indeed a true Teacher: Consider I say, how it can stand with the providence of the same all good God, to permit a Congregation made up of so many thousands, for so many Ages, so universally spread over the Earth, accompanied with no less wonders, if any credit can be given to such human testimony as never yet fail'd concerning matters of Fact, if all this while this Congregation teaches damnable Idolatry, and is the greatest Cheat that ever appear'd in the World, and yet that the Divine providence should work nothing like miracles or singular and over-topping Sanctity, in those who pretend to be raised up by him extraordinarily, to discover to the deceived World this grand Imposture. How can this stand with the Almighty's desire, that the World should not mistake the true Religion?

In confirmation of what I have said above, I add these considerations. 1. Let but any one take the pains to look into modern or antient Writers of Ecclesiastical History (which he may do in a little time, and without any great labor, by looking in the Index the word *Eucharistia*, on some such head) and he shall find, that whensoever there has been any dispute concerning this mystery, some one or few opposed it, and all the rest of the Country stood up in defence of it, as of a doctrine they had immemorably been taught by their Ancestors. An evident conviction, that the antient Faith of that Country was, that indeed the Holy Eucharist was our B. Saviours body and blood, and the denial of this mystery was a Novelty. For example, let him consult Ecclesiastical Historiographers, what happen'd about the year one thousand and fifty, and he shall find that one Berengarius, Arch-deacon of the Church of *Angiers*, oppugned this mystery, but not as a new doctrine then endeavored by some Bishop or other to be imposed upon the people, but as then generally

rally believed; a clear sign that his own Opinion was a new Error; and the common Faith of the Country was the ancient Christian verity. Now let him in the whole History of the Catholick Church, Greek and Latin, find me but one instance in any one Christian Country, on the contrary, and I'll yield him the cause. That is, any one Doctor, Bishop, or Priest, that about such a year of our Lord, in such a Country, began to Preach the mystery of the real presence, upon pretence of clear Scripture for it, or other Arguments, and that he was opposed by the whole Country, as a teacher of a new strange doctrine they had never heard of before: or else that upon such a Doctors appearing they presently yielded to the force of his Reasons and Arguments, and relinquished their former ancient Faith. Which notwithstanding certainly must have happen'd, not only in one, but in all Christian Countries, were the doctrine of the Real presence a new invention, and the denial of it the ancient Christian Faith. Else how came all Christendom, according to the confession of our Adversaries for many Ages universally to believe it? Now can any one imagin, that the belief of so strange a mystery, and which in practice makes all the Believers of it Idolaters, unless it be true, could be introduced both into the Greek and Latin Church, without any opposition, or if it were opposed, that no one Writer in any one Country, should make mention who they were that opposed it, and how they lost their cause? And this, though there have not wanted Writers of what has happen'd in the Christian Church, who have made mention of far lesser accidents, in any Age wherein this belief can be pretended to have been brought in, say, which have taken notice in several Ages and Countries, how certain deniers of this mystery have attempted the bringing in of their new doctrine, & by whom they were opposed, and how they were silenced. Read our own Chronicles about the year 1370. concerning *John Wiclef*, and see whether he was not opposed by all the Bishops and Priests of our English Church as a teacher of a doctrine contrary to what they had been taught by their Ancestors, when he began to teach our Lord's body was not in the Eucharist? And then reflect with your self, if the doctrine of the Real presence was not taught our Nation, when we were first converted to Christianity, how comes it to pass that all our Chronicles should be silent, when or by whom we were taught this mysterious doctrine, and what assistance they had from the civil power, so universally to impose upon our Country such a strange belief, which in all reason requires a far
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greater power to make it prevail then the contrary doctrin. And yet you see where the contrary doctrin is believed, it cost no small pains and force, and time to introduce it, nor has all this neither been able to make it Universal, in so much as in one Christian Province. Make the like Reflexion upon the City of *Rome*, and consider that in the Apostles daies they believed aright concerning this great mystery, and for some hundreds of years according to the confession of our Adversaries. Now this great and Cultivated City, has memorials of what has past in it, as we have of what has past in *London*, and yet they make no mention of any one that ever began since their first Conversion to Christianity, to teach this strange doctrin and worship of the holy Eucharist, but that they have immemorially from *S. Peter* believed and adored it, as the body of their Saviour and God. Nor indeed can it be imagin'd how they could ever possibly change their first Faith, having ever opposed all Teachers of Novelties, with that Answer of *S. Stephen Pope* to the Clergy of *Africa*, concerning Rebaptization (never heeding all their seeming Reasons, or Texts of Scripture understood after a new manner, as *S. Vincent Lirinensis* observes) *Nihil novandum nisi quod eraditum est*. We must imbovate nothing, but stick to the doctrin delivered to us by our Ancestors. When think you should we in *London* be brought universally to believe the Real presence, if we were resolved for ever tenaciously to adhere to the doctrin taught us by our immediat Predecessors, notwithstanding whatsoever Argument should be brought against us from Reason or Scripture?

2. Consider how our Adversaries would triumph over us, could they find but one City in the whole world, which should profess to have believed immemorially, since their first Reception of the Christian Faith, as they do concerning the Holy Eucharist, and all their Chronicles were either silent, or positively testified as much, and we were not able positively to shew when they began their Faith, but should Answer: their Chronicles were corrupted, or ancient Records lost, or by little and little they left off imperceptibly believing as they were first taught. But if to all this they could produce in several Ages, how such a Doctor upon pretence of cleer Scripture, endeavor'd to make them leave their ancient Faith, but they still retained it, opposing to all his seeming strong Arguments, that thus they had been taught time out of mind by their Ancestors, from their first Conversion to Christian Religion, and to understand those Scriptures otherwise. But if to all this, they could produce in several

Ages Recorded miracles in confirmation of their Faith, and we should have nothing to reply but that these miracles were feigned. Think if they would not return upon us, that such wild Answers open'd a way to Atheists to deny all the miracles of *Moses* and our B. Saviour. And then consider impartially whether this be not our Case.

3. Consider though our Adversaries but very irrationally deny any miracles to have been wrought in our Church, yet they cannot deny but we have Records without number of notorious and most evident miracles, and such Records as in civil matters no body questions. Men, for example, of good judgment and honest repute attesting upon their Oaths, that upon such a day, such and such miraculous events happen'd, & they were eye-witnesses of them, &c. And then reflect how it can stand with the providence of God and his desire of mankind's worshipping him according to his will, to permit even such Records of miracles in a false Church. For certainly a sincere desirer to find out the Truth, must needs be strangely inclin'd to give credit to such Records, and which moreover he should find to be credited by persons of as good judgment and integrity as himself in all Christian Provinces in Communion with the See of *Rome*. And indeed such Records of false miracles would be as apt to deceive impartial judicious Enquirers, as even the sight of false miracles themselves. For why are we so assured our senses cannot deceive us? Is it not because we never experienced them to fail us in due circumstances? and also because if we should be necessitated by them to judge of things otherwise than they are, God Almighty, who has so made our senses, would be the cause of our mistake, which were to tell a real lye? And did Tradition duly circumstantiated, ever yet fail? And would not God Almighty's providence in the government of man-kind be deficient, (it being necessary for us to know certainly not only things that are present to us, which we do by our senses, but also things that are distant from us both in place and time, which we can only know by the report of others) if no assured certain credit could be given to the testimony of men, though never so many in number, and of never so good repute? Especially when he obliges us to be of a Religion which was taught our Ancestors 1600. years before we were Born, and yet we can give no assured credit to History or immemorial testimonies of whole Countreys? Moreover, we finding by the experience of the Age we live in, that though fabulous stories be told and printed too, yet we easily

easily distinguish betwixt them and true Histories of the present times. For that true Histories gain an universal credit amongst persons of the best understanding, and the Historiographers that write them, are commended to Posterity as faithful witnesses of Truth; whereas fables and fictions, every one of ordinary capacity, looks upon them as such, nor do we give any other Recommendation of them to Posterity, then as of fabulous Romances. This we experiencing in the present Age, persons of humility and solid judgment, deem the like to have happen'd in the daies of their Fore-fathers; and consequently give another kind of credit to Stories, how strange so ever recounted by a *S. Bernard*, a venerable *Bede*, or a *S. Bonaventure*, then they do to the fictions of a *Don Quixot*, a *Guy of Warwick*, &c. And he that will consider what has happen'd in the World, will find mens eyes and other senses to have been as often mistaken, as he will find whole Towns and Countries to have confidently told a Lye to their Posterity, which they evidently knew to be a Lye.

And this the Atheists of our days would do well to reflect on, when they so senselessly call in question the History of *Moses* or Book of *Exodus*, concerning the wonders wrought by Almighty God in *Aegypt*. And Dr. *N. N.* too, must one day give a sad account for all his Drollery, as merry as he makes himself with the History of *Lorette*, and other stories registred by persons of noted sanctity and integrity. And would he reflect a little on the difficulty of making whole Countrys believe a Lye, contrary to the evidence of their senses; he would find it a greater miracle that the whole Territory of *Lorette* should so immemorially believe so great a Lye, as he would make his Reader think they do, then the wonder it self he sacrilegiously scoffs at: To wit, the Translation of the House, in which our B. Lord was conceived by his Holy Mother at *Nazareth*, out of the Holy Land, first into *Dalmatia*, and then afterwards into *Italy*. Let the Dr. cause a house to be built in a Night, in *S. James's Park*, and then tell the Citizens of *London*, it was brought thither by Angels out of a forreign Country, and see if he can make them so universally to believe it, as they shall, no body contradicting, make their Posterity believe as much; and I perswade my self he may with the same ease, bring such a House from *Genoa* or *New-England* in a Night, as make the numerous multitude believe such a notorious Lye.

O *England, England, dear Native Soil*, it lengthen open mine Eyes, and acknowledge the illimited goodness of the divine Majesty to be such, that not contenting himself with giving us prodigies of Sanctity for the first Planters of Christianity, and with confirming their sublime and holy doctrine with evident signs and wonders, he is ever now and then awakening the drowsie world with a *S. Dominick*, a *S. Francis*, or a *St. Xavier*, and ceases not by undeniable miracles to confirm the languishing faith of reprobate Christians. The sight of present miracles strangely strengthens our Faith of wonders past and done long since. And believe it, 'tis a next disposition to Antichristianism and Atheism, freely to give our selves the liberty to scoff at all miracles, though attested by never so grave Authors, except such as are recorded in the four Gospels; and to laugh at all lives of Christian Saints as ridiculous; but those of the twelve Apostles; though to an impartial considerer, one Egg does not more resemble another, then do the persons we so freely deride, express the first followers of our dear Redeemer, in their holy and divine Conversations.

4. Consider the force of *S. Austins* Argument to prove the truth of Christianity. The world has actually submitted to Christianity, as to a Religion taught from Heaven. From whence the Saint argues thus. The world believed the high mysterious doctrine of Christianity, either upon miracles wrought by the first teachers of them, or without miracles. If upon miracles, then you who doubt have reason also to believe them. Or if the world submitted their Faith to believe such strange mysteries, without any miracles, this is the greatest miracle of all, that such vast multitudes, and innumerable of these, of ripe judgement and quick understanding, should believe such strange things upon the Authority of the Proposer without a miracle. Apply this to our present mystery. Two hundred years ago the whole Christian world believed the H. Eucharist to be our B. Saviours body, and adored it as such. Hereupon I argue. These vast multitudes, and many of them of great learning and judgement, began to believe this strange mystery, either for miracles wrought by the first Teachers of it, or without miracles. If upon miracles then you ought to believe it also: If without miracles, this is the greatest miracle of all that such vast multitudes, and these innumerable of them, well cultivated with learning, besides their natural ripeness of judgement, and sharpness of wit, should believe so strange a mystery, without any miracles wrought by those who first demanded their belief of it.

Finally consider with your self how many millions there are who believe this mystery, and would sooner part with their life then their Faith of it, and these, if you have the least grain of humility, such as you have reason to think them of as good Learning, Wit, and Judgment as your self: Add, as good Christians as your self, for either piety to God, or Charity to their indigent Neighbor, or mortification to themselves. Imagine you saw all these, as holy and as wise as your self in the several Christian Countries of the whole world, all upon their knees, adoring a seeming Water-Cake, as their Creator and God; Bishops, Priests, Doctors of Divinity in vast numbers, Kings and Princes, Men and Women of all degrees and condition. And can you now think, all these people to be in their wits, and not have some strong Reasons and Arguments which induce them to such a Faith and such a practice? Had you and I been in the Stable of *Bethlehem* in the Night of our Lord's Nativity, and *S. Joseph* should have told us that the little Infant we saw there sucking his Mothers Breast, was the Maker of Heaven and Earth; we should no doubt have found great difficulty to believe him. But should we have staid there a while, and have seen the Shepherds come in, and fall down upon their knees before him, by the admonition as they pretended of an Angel that had appeared to them, as they were keeping watch over their Flocks; this doubtless would a little have inclined us to think, that at least there was something extraordinary in the new-born Babe. But had we staid till the coming of the three Kings, and seen them in like-manner fall down before him, making him rich presents upon the admonition, as they said, of a miraculous Star which had appeared to them in their own Country: such circumstances as these, would sure have strangely urged us to the belief of that wonder of wonders. And to make use of a homebred example. Who would have taken our Gracious Sovereign *Charles the Second*, for the King of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, that should have seen him under the disguise of a Shepherd, Sea-man, or other habit he was forced to assume, to secure his Royal Person? But could you and I have peeped into this private Chamber, and seen his small Retinue all bare before him, and some one of them upon his knees presenting him with a cup of Beer or wine: should we not think you have begun to suspect? Surely this Person, however and for whatsoever reasons he may disguise himself, is of another quality then his outward garb represents him to be. Nor do I less persuade my self, did you and I see the many thou,

thousands all over the world; as well of the *Gentiles* as *Roman Church*, who upon their knees with an assured Faith, devoutly adore a Consecrated Wafer as their Creator and God; if we have any respect to reason and man-kind, and do not imagine all the world to be Fools except our selves: Such a prospect as this, would make us suspect in the secret of our hearts: Surely under this disguise of a contemptible Wafer, there is veiled some hidden Majesty or other, who forces the highest adoration from such vast multitudes of all Nations, and many of them so sharp-witted; and of such sound judgements, and such impartial enquirers after Truth, and of so good and holy lives. Say then, and we have reason to say it heartily, and without the least scruple or doubt, 'Twas the same our Gracious Sovereign, who lay hid in a common Oak at *Widre-Lady*, under the disguise of a Peasants weed; who sits now at *Westminster* in his Princely Throne, invested in his Royal Robes. And 'tis the same Christ, Jesus our only Saviour and God, who under the humble disguise of common bread and wine, is immolated here below every day upon our Christian Altars, who in transcendent splendor and glory, sits at the right hand of his Eternal Father in the Heavens. *Sir*, I have done my part, the Almighty do the rest; and make you a happy Child of his holy Church. But *Sir*, I beseech you give me leave to add

My dear Friends, I beseech you give me leave to add

My dearest Companions, whom with my soul I wish the same happiness with my self, both in this Life and the other, I beseech you before you be engaged in the world, and hindered from an industrious impartial enquiry after Truth, by the cares of a Family, and fears of wanting a competent subsistence, do your selves and your Country that right, as to consider with as little passion and prejudice as you can, these my scattered thoughts; and do not rashly conclude against Transubstantiation until you have fully heard what its Adversary, as well as what its Demers have to say for themselves. I was once as you are, and many suspicions of the truth of the Roman Catholic Faith came into my mind, but still I was hindered from examining of it; with this one thought: If I turn Papist, I must believe Transubstantiation; but I know that's an impossibility, and this made me sit down contented with the Religion in which I was educated. But afterwards making it my business more in good earnest to save my soul, and seeing my self impartially to examine what was the

hel of the Primitive times concerning this mystery, and finding most
 clear Testimonies for the Real presence in the most renowned Primi-
 tive Christian Doctors, I was much amazed, having been always taught
 they were of a contrary Faith. I read the citations of a Clergy-man of
 my Acquaintance, I demand of him what he thought their belief was,
 who in those words expressed their Faith? He told me, no doubt
 but they believed as the Church of Rome believes. I consult the
 Authors themselves, read the context before and after the said cita-
 tions, I am still more and more convinced, *S. Augustin, Chrysostom,*
Cyril, &c. believed as the Church of Rome now believes. Hereup-
 on I resolve not to venture my soul upon a point of Philosophy, for
 example, whether God Almighty by all his Omnipotency can make
 a body be in two places at once or no? I believe two mysteries al-
 ready, both which puzzle and shock my reason as much as Transub-
 stantiation, to wit, the B. Trinity and the Incarnation of the Son of
 God, why may not I believe a third as well; especially when I have
 the same Arguments for one as the other: clear Scriptures, the imme-
 morial belief of all Nations ever since the Apostle, &c. And in-
 deed, if God Almighty will oblige me to believe what was taught
 sixteen hundred years before I was born, how should he expect I
 should come to the knowledge of this, but by such books as were
 written in those times, and near those times, and by the testimony
 of all Christian Countrys, what has been immemorially believed by
 them ever since they were Christians? Now if it be too long a jour-
 ney to go over all Christendom, to ask of them, what is, and what
 alwaies has been their Faith as to Transubstantiation, and how they
 have always understood the holy Scriptures that speak of that mystery,
 go but to the *Royal Exchange in London*, and there you may meet
 with persons, which at least have been in all or most Christian Coun-
 try, and ask of them what the belief and practice of Christendom is,
 and you will find they all believe and adore the B. Sacrament, and
 have done so, as they say, immemorially ever since they were Christi-
 ans, as Roman-Catholicks do in *England*, or else if they do for
 some numbers amongst them believe and practice otherwise, tis only
 since such a time *where, &c.* And then reflect how by such an Argument
 you prove, as you think, efficaciously against an Antiscripturist, that
 the Books of the Old and New Testament are infallible; and you se-
 curely believe every particular story in them, though never so
 strange; in like manner the change of *Sunday Sabbath* into *Sun-
 day*, *Transubstantiation*, and *Fasting in Lent* as Apostolical

with

with Bishop *Gunning* against Non-Conformists. And indeed it is impossible such an universal effect should ever be without a proportionate universal cause. That so many several Christian Countries should immemorably abstain from certain meats on *Friday* every week, and in *Lent* every year, or adore a Consecrated piece of Bread as their Creator and God, unless they had been either first taught so to do by the first Planters of Christianity, or by some Preachers first, or had agreed so to do in some General Council by their Representatives, is impossible. Should we ever think you even in the single City of *London*, have fall'n by little and little to have shut up our shops, on the Anniversary of the death of our gracious Sovereign *Charles the First*, unless we had been commanded so to do by some Universal Authority, Ecclesiastical or Civil? Take notice, by this Argument is also proved, all other points of Catholic practice, or Faith, as Purgatory, prayer for the Dead, &c. but especially such as nature has a difficulty to believe or do. That one man should kill himself is no wonder, but that all the inhabitants of a populous City should kill themselves, would be such a wonder as never yet happen'd in Nature.

Against all that has been said, I doubt not but you will be apt to Reply. We acknowledge for divers Ages, our own and other Christian Countries believed the holy Eucharist to be really and substantially our Saviours true body & blood, & adored it as such, but yet we cannot believe that either *S. Peter* and *Paul* at *Rome*, or *S. Joseph* of *Arimathea* in our own Country taught any such doctrine, but that imperceptibly by little and little the whole Christian world changed the Faith that was first planted by the Apostles, as particular men grow gray, and whole Countries change their Languages imperceptibly. For Answer to this Reply, let us not discourse in general, but consider and devise with our selves how possibly such a thing might practically happen. For example, let us take the City of *Rome* into our consideration. It is confessed by all, that the Inhabitants of that Cultivated City, Priests and People universally do believe, and have for many generations believed, a Consecrated Wafer to be Jesus Christ, God and Man, vitified with the outward appearance or species of common Bread. Now we are to enquire, how they came to this strange Faith? Say then, *Rome* by little and little began to believe this mystery, first one and then another till at length the whole City was of that belief. But how? without a Teacher, and all in the same year, or in what length of time? That one man, or some

Some few in a populous City, should of themselves fall to the belief of such a strange mystery, contrary to what has been believed by their Ancestors, might be granted; but that the whole City Learned and Unlearned, Priest and People, should so change their Faith, and that for such a strange one too, without a Master or a Teacher, that wholly incredible: Or if some Bishop or Priest of *Rome* since the Apostles, had perswaded the people to believe the strange doctrine of Transubstantiation, how comes it to pass, seeing the belief of the doctrine is still retained, that the Authors name is not retained with singular honor and reverence by the believers of it, as the names of *Calvin* and *Luther* are by Calvinists and Lutherans; and the names of the first Preachers of Christianity by the several Christian Countries they converted? Besides, whosoever Priest or Layman should have begun to preach such a strange and incredible doctrine to nature, must needs have met with great opposition from all sorts of persons; from good men, because his doctrine tended to make them all gross Idolaters, and Worshippers of a piece of Bread as God; from bad men, because his doctrine strangely shocked their sense and reason, which nature and vitious followers of nature would by no means endure. Now if opposition were made at the first introducing of this new Faith, how comes it to pass, all, both Roman and other Histories are silent as to any such thing?

Should I by way of Prophecy tell you, that the great City of *London*, within these 300. years, shall as universally, as does now, the City of *Rome* believe and adore the Holy Eucharist as Jesus Christ himself, and this so imperceptibly, that neither they, nor neighbouring Cities or Countries shall perceive it, till the whole City be quite changed: Nay 300. years hence; when they shall be charged with Idolatry and Innovation for such their belief and practice, they shall profess that they have always so believed and practised, even since they were Christians. And all this, though they shall for these 300. years have Priests and Bishops, whose Office it shall be to teach the quite contrary doctrine, and these Priests shall be such Zealous maintainers of the doctrine they now believe, that when in the compass of this 300. years to come, there shall rise up Teachers of new Doctrines, deniers of the Divinity of our Saviour, and the eternity of the torments of impenitent Sinners, &c. and shall alledge strong human Reasons and seeming Scriptures for themselves, these Priests shall oppose, we must innovate nothing, we must stick to the belief our Ancestors were of in the year 1673. Then God Almighty testified

from

from Heaven, by evident Miracles, the Truth of our Focall Faith, and then we find charge not to change our Faith. Though an Angel from Heaven should accuse us of mistake, and therefore we must pardon us if we adhere to this Faith. Add There shall not want frequent Assemblies of the wisest and best Learned in the City, and they shall meet on purpose to enquire whether the faith and practice of the year 1675. be kept, and yet they shall never take notice of so gross and notorious a change, as the believing and adoring a piece of bread as God, till the whole City be in such a belief and practice, but other mistakes that some particular men were bringing in, they shall observe and correct. Nay 300. years hence, there shall rise up a certain Priest, who shall accuse all the Priests and people of the City for believing otherwise than their Ancestors did in 1675. but yet shall not be able by virtue of any History or Oral Tradition, to shew how, or by whom they were persuaded to that strange Faith they shall then be of; and yet there shall not want Historiographers neither, who shall take notice of other notorious changes that shall happen both in Church and State in those 300. years.

Think now seriously with your selves, how impossible it is for any such thing to happen in nature, and examin impartially whether the deniers of Transubstantiation be not forced to affirm the like incredible wonder to have happen'd not in one City alone, but in many Cities and whole Countrys. But the wonder would be yet greater, if there were not one Believer of Transubstantiation in the year 1675. in the City of London, nor never had been one since the first planting of Christianity, neither there, nor in any other neighbouring City or Country: and yet all this must be solved by deniers of Transubstantiation to be Apostolical doctrine. For, place your self in what Age of Christianity you please, and suppose the known Cities and Countries of Christendom to believe universally concerning the holy Eucharist as the Citizens of London generally do now. Take for example the year 900. after our B. Lord (though our Adversaries pretend to be willing to be judged by the Doctors of the first 600.) Add to 300. a decursion of 300. or 500. years, and then see what Faith the Christian world is of; and you'll find they universally believe and adore the Holy Eucharist as Rome does at this present. Joyn now your selves with *Berenarius* in the year one thousand and fifty or thereabouts, and see what account you can give, how all your fellow Clergy and Laity came to to have changed

And how can that differ from what it was in the fifth Century? For you must not think the several Councils gathered against the denial of the Real presence, the Bishops in them, then first began to believe the Real presence, and that when they returned to their several Dioceses they taught them a strange new doctrine, which they by inspiration had newly learnt: when they were Assembled together, but they only gave in their Verdicts what immemorably had been believed in their several Countrys they came from, as to that mystery. As if, for example, a Synod of all the Bishops in England should meet in the year 1675. to examine concerning the Quakers, whether they Preached false and Antichristian doctrine or no, in denying Baptism and all other Sacraments; and they should conclude against those Innovators; would you infer thence, the Church of England only in the year 1675. and never before, revered Baptism or any other Sacrament of Christ? And yet this is just our case, when our Adversaries will have the belief and adoration of the B. Sacrament to have not been heard of before the Councils that condemned *Berengarius*.

As to your instances of a man growing gray, and whole Countrys imperceptibly changing their language; is it possible think you for any mans whole head by little and little to grow gray, and neither he nor any other should take notice of it, till he were as white as snow, and this, though he and others were charged to take notice of every hair that should grow gray, and to pluck it out immediately, and he and others should frequently consult whether any such change were made in his head or no? Say the same concerning a whole Countrys changing their Language by little and little. Impose a severe penalty against any one that in writing or speech should introduce a new word, and appoint Officers to take notice of all such new coyned words; and let these Officers have frequent consults to this purpose. Add a menace of death both to Overseers and people, if any such alteration through their neglect of their duty should happen. And then think how it could be possible for a whole Country by little and little imperceptibly to change its Language? The like change and menace gave Jesus Christ to the Pastors of his Church not to change their Faith. And yet after all this can not one Country, but the whole Christian world have so changed their Faith, as they became imperceptibly most stupid Idolaters? To conclude, if you examine the matter well, you will find, you must either resolve to believe the strange doctrine of Transubstantiation, or else something far more incredible.

